

To Whom It May Concern,

I upgraded my license to Extra in January 2000, after completing the exam requirements for both advanced and extra (both theory and 20 wpm) in one day. I applied myself and passed the tests and learned a few new things along the way. I did not study for the extra but passed as a result of approximately 40 years as an active licensed amateur.

It seems intrinsically unfair and short sighted to "give" away an higher class license without requiring the licensee to pass the required tests. As I demonstrated, if the licensee truly has the required experience, he/she should be able to pass the required tests.

If amateur radio is to provide our nation with needed communications expertise in time of war or major disasters, a trained knowledgeable pool of communicators is desirable not just license holders who have "put in their time" but not demonstrated the aptitude for the more complex concepts or skills required for a higher class license.

By taking away the requirements for a higher class license, we are lowering our standards and reducing the incentive to acquire more knowledge and skills.

I have been a licensed automobile driver for more than twenty years. Does that mean I'm ready to drive a tractor trailer or to drive a commercial vehicle?

Amateur radio provides individuals with valuable communications resources. Let us not give these resources and privileges away to the unqualified!!

73,

Jose Berrios, WB2BWU